

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An automated method of configuring routing attributes of ports within [[an]] a SAS network domain, comprising:

automatically discovering devices of the SAS network domain;  
automatically discovering the ports of the discovered devices; [[and]]  
5 automatically configuring the routing attributes of the discovered ports; and  
automatically configuring routing table information used by the devices of the  
domain derived from the configured routing attributes.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of discovering devices, discovering ports, and configuring the routing attributes of the  
discovered ports each include a step of exchanging SMP messages.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
wherein the step of configuring routing table information further comprises:  
configuring routing table information within initiator and expander devices of said  
devices of the SAS network domain wherein said routing table information is sufficient  
5 to identify paths in the SAS network domain to enable the exchange of said SMP  
messages.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
wherein the step of configuring routing table information further comprises:  
completely configuring routing table information to identify all paths for  
exchange of messages within the SAS network domain.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of completely configuring is substantially integrated with the steps of discovering devices, discovering ports, and configuring ports.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of discovering said devices further comprises:

transmitting an SMP Discover request from a first device to a neighboring device of the first device; and

5 receiving an SMP Discover response in said first device from said neighboring device identifying [[the]] other devices coupled to ports of said neighboring device.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of discovering said ports of said discovered devices further comprises:

transmitting an SMP Report General request from a first device to a neighboring device of the first device; and

5 receiving an SMP Report General response in said first device from said neighboring device identifying the number of said ports within said neighboring device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of configuring further comprises:

transmitting an SMP request from a first device to a second device wherein the SMP request includes vendor unique information identifying a routing attribute of said 5 routing attributes to be configured for a port of said ports of said second device.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

recursively repeating the steps of the method to traverse devices of the SAS network domain to configure said routing attributes of said ports of said devices of the SAS network domain.

10. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A SAS network domain, comprising:  
a plurality of expander devices providing a plurality of ports within the domain  
wherein each port may have an associated routing attribute; and  
a domain control element coupled to at least one of the plurality of expander  
5 devices operable to configure the routing attributes of the plurality of ports, wherein the  
domain control element is operable to configure the routing attributes of the ports by  
traversing port connections between the expander devices and wherein the domain  
control element is further operable to use the configured routing attributes to  
automatically generate complete routing tables used by the plurality of expander devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The SAS network domain of claim 10 wherein the  
domain control element comprises:

[[an]] a SAS initiator device coupled to at least one of the plurality of expander  
devices.

12. (Currently Amended) The SAS network domain of claim 10 wherein the  
domain control element comprises:

[[an]] a SAS expander device coupled to at least one of the plurality of expander  
devices.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A SAS network domain comprising:  
means for discovering the topology of the SAS network domain by traversing port  
connections between devices of the domain; [[and]]  
means for configuring SAS routing attributes associated with ports of devices of  
5 the domain in response to discovery of the topology of the domain; and  
means for configuring routing tables using the configured routing attributes, the  
routing tables used by the devices of the domain.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The SAS network domain of claim [[15]] 14  
wherein said means for configuring routing tables, [[and]] said means for discovering and  
said means for configuring SAS routing attributes are substantially integrated so as to  
traverse the port connection between the devices of the domain only once.

17. (Currently Amended) The SAS network domain of claim 14 wherein the  
means for discovering the topology further comprises:

means for exchanging SMP messages between the devices of the domain to  
identify the devices, [[and]] to identify the ports of the devices and to identify the port  
5 connections between the ports of the devices.

18. (Currently Amended) The SAS network domain of claim 17 wherein the  
means for exchanging SMP messages further comprises:

means for exchanging [[an]] SMP Report General request and response messages  
to identify ports of devices and to identify the port connections between the ports of the  
5 devices.

19. (Currently Amended) The SAS network domain of claim 17 wherein the  
means for exchanging SMP messages further comprises:

means for exchanging SMP Discover request and response messages [[to]]  
between the devices of the domain.

20. (Currently Amended) The SAS network domain of claim 14 wherein the means for configuring further comprises:

means for transmitting an SMP message having vendor unique information from a first device to a second ~~devicees~~ device to instruct the second device to configure the routing attribute of a port of the second device.

5